

In the Claims:

**1. (currently amended):** A pigment ~~comprising, the particles of which generally have~~ having a length of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , a width of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a thickness of from 20 nm to 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, wherein the particles contain a core of  $\text{SiO}_y$  with  $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.95$ , ~~especially  $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$~~ , having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, and ~~comprising (a) a material, especially a metal oxide,~~ having a high index of refraction.

**2. (currently amended):** ~~The A pigment comprising, the particles of which generally have~~ having a length of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , a width of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a thickness of from 20 nm to 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, wherein the particles contain a core of  $\text{SiO}_y$  with  $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.95$ , ~~especially  $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$~~ , having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, and comprising (a) a thin semi-transparent metal layer.

**3. (original):** The pigment according to claim 1, wherein the pigment comprises in addition (b) a metal oxide of low refractive index, wherein the difference of the refractive indices is at least 0,1.

**4. (currently amended):** The pigment according to claim 1, ~~or 3,~~ wherein the metal oxide of high refractive index is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ , ~~or a mixture of these oxides or~~ an iron titanate, an iron oxide hydrate, and a titanium suboxide or a ~~mixture and/or mixed phase of these compounds.~~

**5. (currently amended):** The pigment according to ~~any of claim~~ any of claim ~~[[s]] 1, 3, or 4,~~ wherein the metal oxide of low index of refraction is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{AlOOH}$  and  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ , ~~or a mixture thereof,~~ wherein alkali or earth alkali metal oxides can be contained as additional component.

**6. (currently amended):** The pigment according to ~~any of claim~~ any of claim ~~[[s]] 1 to 5,~~ wherein the  $\text{SiO}_y$  core has a thickness of from 20 to 200 nm, ~~especially from 50 to 150 nm, most preferred 60 to 120 nm.~~

**7. (currently amended):** A process for producing the ~~interference~~ pigment according to ~~any of claim~~ ~~[[s]]~~ ~~1 and 3 to 6,~~ by alternately coating SiO<sub>y</sub> flakes with a metal oxide with a high refractive index and a metal oxide with a low refractive index in a wet process by hydrolysis of the corresponding water-soluble metal compounds, by separating, drying and optionally calcinating the pigment thus obtained.

**8. (original):** A process for producing the pigment according to claim 2, wherein SiO<sub>y</sub> flakes are suspended in an aqueous and/or organic solvent containing medium in the presence of a metal compound and the metal compound is deposited onto SiO<sub>y</sub> flakes by addition of a reducing agent.

**9. (currently amended):** A pigment comprising, ~~the particles of which generally have~~ having a length of from 2 μm to 5 mm, a width of from 2 μm to 2 mm, and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, wherein the particles contain a core with a thickness of from 20 to 200 nm of SiO<sub>2</sub> or a silicon/silicon oxide core ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating SiO<sub>y</sub> flakes with  $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.80$ , ~~especially~~  $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$ , in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature of at least 400°C, having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, ~~comprising and~~ a material, ~~especially a metal oxide,~~ having a high index of refraction, or a thin semi-transparent metal layer and optionally further layers, ~~wherein the core has a thickness of from 20 to 200 nm, especially from 40 to 150 nm, most preferred 60 to 120 nm.~~

**10. (canceled).**

**11. (currently amended):** Paints, printing inks, textiles, coatings, plastics, cosmetics, glazes for ceramics and glass, which are pigmented with a pigment Pigment according to ~~any of claim~~ ~~[[s]]~~ ~~1, to 6 or 9.~~

**12 (new):** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein  $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$  and the material having a high index of refraction is a metal oxide.

**13. (new):** A pigment according to claim 2, wherein  $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$ .

**14. (new):** A pigment according to claim 3, wherein the metal oxide of high refractive index is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ZnO, an iron titanate, an iron oxide hydrate and a titanium suboxide, or a mixed phase of these compounds.

**15. (new):** The pigment according to claim 1, wherein the SiO<sub>y</sub> core has a thickness of from 50 to 150 nm.

**16. (new):** The pigment according to claim 1, wherein the SiO<sub>y</sub> core has a thickness of from 60 to 120 nm.

**17. (new):** The pigment according to claim 2, wherein the SiO<sub>y</sub> core has a thickness of from 20 to 200 nm.

**18. (new):** The pigment according to claim 2, wherein the SiO<sub>y</sub> core has a thickness of from 50 to 150 nm.

**19. (new):** The pigment according to claim 2, wherein the SiO<sub>y</sub> core has a thickness of from 60 to 120 nm.

**20. (new):** A pigment according to claim 9, wherein the thickness of the particle core is from 50 to 150 nm,  $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.8$  and the material having a high index of refraction is a metal oxide.

**21. (new):** Paints, printing inks, textiles, coatings, plastics, cosmetics, glazes for ceramics and glass, which are pigmented with a pigment according to claim 2.